

Guidance on Hospital-Employed AEMTs and Paramedics accessing Automated Drug Delivery Systems

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During the December 2025 Board meeting, the Board discussed adding an exemption to 68-9-3 – Automated drug delivery system to supply drugs for administration in certain facilities. The exemption would allow “advanced emergency medical technicians” and “paramedics” access to automated drug delivery systems. The following exemption shall apply until the Board has had the opportunity to promulgate amendments to 68-9-3.

- **Exemption:** A medical care facility pharmacy that manages an automated drug delivery system may allow an advanced emergency medical technician or paramedic to access the automated drug delivery system to retrieve drugs pursuant to K.A.R. 68-9-3 for administration to the patient. The advanced emergency medical technicians and paramedics shall be employed by the medical care facility that shares common ownership with the medical care facility pharmacy.
 - **Statute:** K.S.A. 65-1626 defines an “automated dispensing system” to mean a robotic or mechanical system controlled by a computer that: (1) Performs operations or activities, other than compounding or administration, relative to the storage, packaging, labeling, dispensing, or distribution of drugs.
 - **Statute:** K.S.A. 65-1626 defines a “medical care facility” to mean the same as defined in K.S.A. 65-425 and also includes psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric residential facilities.
 - **Statute:** K.S.A. 65-425 defines a “medical care facility” to mean a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, or recuperation center, except that a medical care facility does not include a hospice that is certified to participate in the Medicare program and that provides services only to hospice patients.
 - **Statute:** K.S.A. 65-6112 defines an “advanced emergency medical technician” to mean a person who holds an advanced emergency medical technician certificate issued pursuant to 65-6101 et seq.
 - **Statute:** K.S.A. 65-6112 defines a “paramedic” to mean a person who holds a paramedic certificate issued pursuant to 65-6101 et seq.
 - **Regulation:** K.A.R. 68-9-3 defines an “automated drug delivery system” as an automated dispensing system that is located in a facility outside of the managing pharmacy and uses a robotic, mechanical, or computerized device to supply each drug to an individual who shall administer the drug to a patient.
 - **Regulation:** K.A.R. 68-9-3(f) sets out the pharmacist-in-charge's responsibilities, which include controlling access to the automated drug delivery system and maintaining policies and procedures for training and authorization of personnel.